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REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed April 13, 2007. At the time of this Office Action, Claims 1-76 were pending in the Application and Claims 1-76 were rejected. The following actions were taken or matters raised: (I) Claims 50-52 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being verbatim duplicates of Claims 56-58; and (II) Claims 1-76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Summers et al. (US Pat. 6,876,734). In order to advance prosecution of this case by overcoming the rejections asserted by the Office, Claims 1, 4, 13-16, 22, 28, 48, 50, 56, 63 and 71 have been amended, Claim 12 has been canceled, and remarks addressing such rejection have been presented herein. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Objection Under Verbatim Duplication of Claims

Claims 50-52 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being verbatim duplicates of Claims 56-58. In view of amendments made to Claims 50 and 56, the Applicants submit that the objection to Claims 50-52 as being verbatim duplicates of Claims 58 has been overcome.

Rejection Under 102(e) - Summers

Claims 1-76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Summers et al. (6,876,734). The Applicants assert that, in view of amended independent Claims 1, 50, 56, 63 and 71, the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 50, 56, 63 and 71, and all

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other claims dependent thereon, is clearly distinguished from Summers and provides advantageous, useful and non-obvious functionality in view of Summers. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) applied to Claims 1-76 as being anticipated by Summers is overcome and respectfully requests the Office to withdraw the rejections asserted against Claims 1-76 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Summers.

More specifically, Claims 1, 50, 56, 63 and 71 have been amended to characterize the invention with greater specificity in view of the disclosures of Summers. Claim 1 has been amended to recite a method for providing enhanced conferencing control features in an Internet-based conference solution, comprising the steps of: configuring a member using one or more commands to result in displaying a member icon on a computer screen, storing the configuration for the member into a file, assigning the member as a member administrator using one or more commands, and allowing the member administrator to implement a plurality of first set functions, wherein said first set functions include at least one of a function for implementing Whisper functionality, a function for implementing Create Table functionality, and a function for implementing Create Avatar functionality. The functionality associated with the recitations of Claim 1 provides for enhanced control of an Internet-based conferencing solution that allows icon-driven selection of conferencing session members via a visual interface (e.g., web-browser) and that allows implementation of Whisper functionality, Table creation functionality, and/or Avatar creation functionality. Summers does not disclose or suggest the invention as recited in Claim 1 and, more specifically, does not disclose or suggest: 1.) Whisper functionality, 2.) Table creation functionality, or 3.) Avatar creation functionality. Accordingly, a skilled person will appreciate that the functionality as

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provided by the present invention as recited in Claim 1 cannot be provided and is not intended to be provided by implementations of the disclosures by Summers.

Claim 50 has been amended to recite a system for providing enhanced conferencing control features in an Internet-based conference solution, comprising a client network and a service provider network, wherein the client network transmits to the service provider network connection information and a function request, further characterized in that the service provider network operates on the connection information and function request to perform a specific operation, wherein the specific operation includes allowing Whisper functionality, Create Table functionality, and Create Avatar functionality to be performed. The functionality associated with the recitations of Claim 50 provides for enhanced control of an Internet-based conferencing solution that is structured in a client-server manner, that is configured for communication function requests, and that allows Whisper functionality, Table creation functionality, and/or Avatar creation functionality to be performed. Summers does not disclose or suggest the invention as recited in Claim 50 and, more specifically, does not disclose or suggest: 1.) Whisper functionality, 2.) Table creation functionality, or 3.) Avatar creation functionality. Accordingly, a skilled person will appreciate that the functionality as provided by the present invention as recited in Claim 50 cannot be provided and is not intended to be provided by implementations of the disclosures by Summers.

Claim 56 has been amended to recite a system for providing enhanced conferencing control features in an Internet-based conference solution comprising a client network and a service provider network, wherein the client network transmits to the service provider network connection information or a function request, further characterized in that the service

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provider network operates on the connection information or function request to perform a specific operation, wherein the specific operation includes allowing a Table conference session and an Avatar conference session to be implemented. The functionality associated with the recitations of Claim 56 provides for enhanced control of an Internet-based conferencing solution that is structured in a client-server manner, that is configured for communication function requests, and that allows a Table conference session and an Avatar conference session to be implemented. Summers does not disclose or suggest the invention as recited in Claim 56 and, more specifically, does not disclose or suggest: 1.) implementation of Table conference sessions or 2.) implementation of Avatar conference sessions. Accordingly, a skilled person will appreciate that the functionality as provided by the present invention as recited in Claim 56 cannot be provided and is not intended to be provided by implementations of the disclosures by Summers.

Claim 63 has been amended to recite a system for providing enhanced conferencing control features in an Internet-based conference solution comprising a client network, a service provider network, and a wide area network. The client network comprises a controller for generating connection information and function request, an interface for receiving and operating on the connection information and function request, an application programming interface (API) for controlling hardware, and a computer telephony integration (CTI) unit for hosting software that communicates with the hardware. The service provider network comprises a conference server for receiving and executing the connection information and function request for allowing Whisper functionality, Create Table functionality, and Create Avatar functionality to be performed. The wide area network couples the client network to the service provider network for allowing communication between the client network and the

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service provider network. The functionality associated with the recitations of Claim 63 provides for enhanced control of an Internet-based conferencing solution that is structured in a client-server manner, that is configured for communication function requests, and that allows Whisper functionality, Table creation functionality, and/or Avatar creation functionality to be performed. Summers does not disclose or suggest the invention as recited in Claim 63 and, more specifically, does not disclose or suggest: 1.) Whisper functionality, 2.) Table creation functionality, or 3.) Avatar creation functionality. Accordingly, a skilled person will appreciate that the functionality as provided by the present invention as recited in Claim 63 cannot be provided and is not intended to be provided by implementations of the disclosures by Summers.

Claim 71 has been amended to recite, in a system including a client network coupled to a service provider network over a wide area network, a method for providing enhanced conferencing control features in an Internet-based conference solution. Such method comprises the steps of generating at the client network connection information and a function request to control a conference, transmitting to the service provider network the connection information and function request, authorizing at the service provider network the client network connection information, signaling the authorization information back to the client network, and allowing at least one of a Table conference session and an Avatar conference session to be created via the client network in response to successfully authorizing the client network connection information. The functionality associated with the recitations of Claim 71 provides for enhanced control of an Internet-based conferencing solution that is structured in a client-server manner, that is configured for communication function requests, and that allows a Table conference session and/or an Avatar conference session to created via a client

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network in response to successfully authorizing a client network connection information by a corresponding service provider network. Summers does not disclose or suggest the invention as recited in Claim 71 and, more specifically, does not disclose or suggest: 1.) creation of Table conference sessions or 2.) creation of Avatar conference sessions. Accordingly, a skilled person will appreciate that the functionality as provided by the present invention as recited in Claim 71 cannot be provided and is not intended to be provided by implementations of the disclosures by Summers.

In view of the amendments made to independent Claims 1, 50, 56, 63 and 71 and the associated remarks, Claims 1-76, and all claims dependent thereon, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Summers because they recite features, physical structure and/or function not present in, configured for being provided by, or intended to be provided by system or methods in accordance with the disclosures of Summers, and therefore distinguish physically over Summers. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) applied to Claims 1-76 as being anticipated by Summers is overcome and respectfully requests the Office to withdraw the rejection asserted against Claims 1-76 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Summers.

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CONCLUSIONS

The Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for reasons clearly apparent, the Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims. If there are any matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of the Application, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 512-306-8533 at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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